

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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SUBJECT: SOVIET ARMED FORCES' DAY IN HAVANA
REF: MOSCOW 2728

1. HIGHLIGHT OF SIXTIETH SOVIET ARMED FORCES' ANNIVERSARY IN CUBA WAS DEDICATION, FEBRUARY 23, OF MAUSOLEUM ("MAUSOLEUM OF SOVIET INTERNATIONALIST SOLDIER") CONTAINING REMAINS OF SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO DIED PERFORMING "INTERNATIONALIST" SERVICE IN CUBA RPT IN CUBA. WESTERN JOURNALISTS WHO ATTENDED FUNCTION STATED THAT MAUSOLEUM CONTAINS SOME SIXTY BODIES OF INDIVIDUALS KILLED BETWEEN 1962 AND 1966 (ACCORDING TO HEADSTONES). (COMMENT: WE PRESUME THAT THIS INDICATES THAT SOVIETS PARTICIPATED MORE HEAVILY IN SUPPRESSION OF ESCAMBRAY INSURRECTION THAN WAS EARLIER BELIEVED.)

2. MINISTER OF DEFENSE RAUL CASTRO SPOKE AT MAUSOLEUM, AND APPEARED AT SOVIET EMBASSY RECEPTION LATER IN EVENING. OBSERVERS STATED THAT RAUL APPEARED TO BE WALKING NORMALLY AND WAS IN GOOD HEALTH. MOST INTERESTING ASPECTS OF RAUL'S MAUSOLEUM SPEECH WERE HIS STATEMENTS THAT:
--SOVIET "PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE" POLICY IS "INDISSOLUBLY
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LINKED WITH SUPPORT OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENT";
--THE "INCESSANT PERFECTIONS AND SUCCESSIVE MODERNIZATION OF (SOVIET) ARMAMENTS AND TECHNICAL MEANS OF COMBAT INCREASE THE SECURITY OF PEOPLES";
--"FOR NUMEROUS PEOPLES IN STRUGGLE FOR THEIR NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE, TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY, AND SOCIAL PROGRESS THE SOVIET ARMED FORCES REPRESENT THE CONSISTENT PUTTING

INTO PRACTICE, WITHOUT VACILLATIONS OF ANY KIND, OF
SOCIALIST AND PROLETARIAN INTERNATIONALISM", (COMMENT:
WE PRESUME THIS REFERS TO ETHIOPIA.)
--(RE SOVIET DEAD) "THANKS TO SACRIFICE OF FIGHTERS LIKE
THOSE WHO TODAY LIE THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM THE LAND WHERE
THEY WERE BORN, FUTURE GENERATIONS WILL ONLY KNOW EXPLOITATION,
NATIONAL AND SOCIAL OPPRESSION, MISERY AND WAR FROM
HISTORY BOOKS BECAUSE THEY WILL BE CITIZENS OF A COMMUNIST
WORLD."

3. IN CONTRAST, SPEECH OF SOVIET AMBASSADOR AN CC CPSU
MEMBER NIKITA TOLUBEYEV IN LARE MEASURE IGNORED THEME OF SUPPORT
FOR CONTEMPORARY NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS (EXCEPT FOR
WORLD WAR II PERIOD) AND ACCENTED PRIMARILY HOMELAND DEFENSE
ROLE OF SOVIET ARMED FORCES (E.G. "ON GUARD FOR DEFENSE OF
HOMELAND", SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS SEEKING TO CREATE FAVORABLE
INTERNATIONAL CONDITIONS FOR "CONSTRUCTION OF COMMUNISM IN
OUR COUNTRY", SOVIET ARMED FORCES WILL NEVER CARRY ON
"WARS OF CONQUEST".) TOLUBEYEV ALSO SPOKE OF SOVIET
"STRUGGLE TO END ARMS RACE AND...FOR TRANSITION TO DIS-
ARMAMENT" - A THEME IGNORED, IF NOT IMPLICITLY CRITICIZED
BY RAUL. (TOLUBEYEV DID, HOWEVER, SAY THAT SOVIETS WERE
"PERFECTIN" THEIR DEFENSES IN RESPONSE TO WESTERN ARMS
DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS NEUTRON BOMB AND CRUISE MISSILE. HE
ALSO STATED, WITH REGARD TO CUBA, THAT, "CLOSE COLLABORATION
UNITES THE ARMED FORCES OF OUR FRATERNAL COUNTRIES.")
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4. AT SOVIET EMBASSY RECEPTION, FEBRUARY 23, RAUL CASTRO
ATTENDED ACCOMPANIED BY POLITBURO MEMBERS CARLOS RAFAEL
RODRIGUEZ AND BLAS ROCA (OLD-TIME MOSCOW-LINE PSP COMMUNISTS),
AND JOSE MACHADO VENTURA AND PEDRO MIRET (NON-PSP).
FIDEL CASTRO WAS NOTABLY ABSENT. ON SOVIET SIDE, IN ADDITION
TO TOLUBEYEV, HIGHEST-RANKING REPRESENTATIVE WAS MARSHAL OF
AVIATION ALEKSANDR YEFIMOV, WHO IS HEADING SOVIET ANNI-
VERSARY MILITARY DELEGATION HERE. WE NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT
GRANMA, FEBRUARY 23, REPORTS THAT FIDEL CASTRO PREVIOUS
EVENING AWARDED "TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF REVOLUTIONARY
ARMED FORCES" MEDAL TO TOLUBEYEV, YEFIMOV, AND TO A GROUP
OF SOVIET EMBAS Y DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONARIES AND MILITARY
SPECIALISTS.
GLASSMAN

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